

From Colonial Pioneers to Space Pioneers

The Changing Face of NASA Langley Research Center



1737 and 1851 Cloverdale



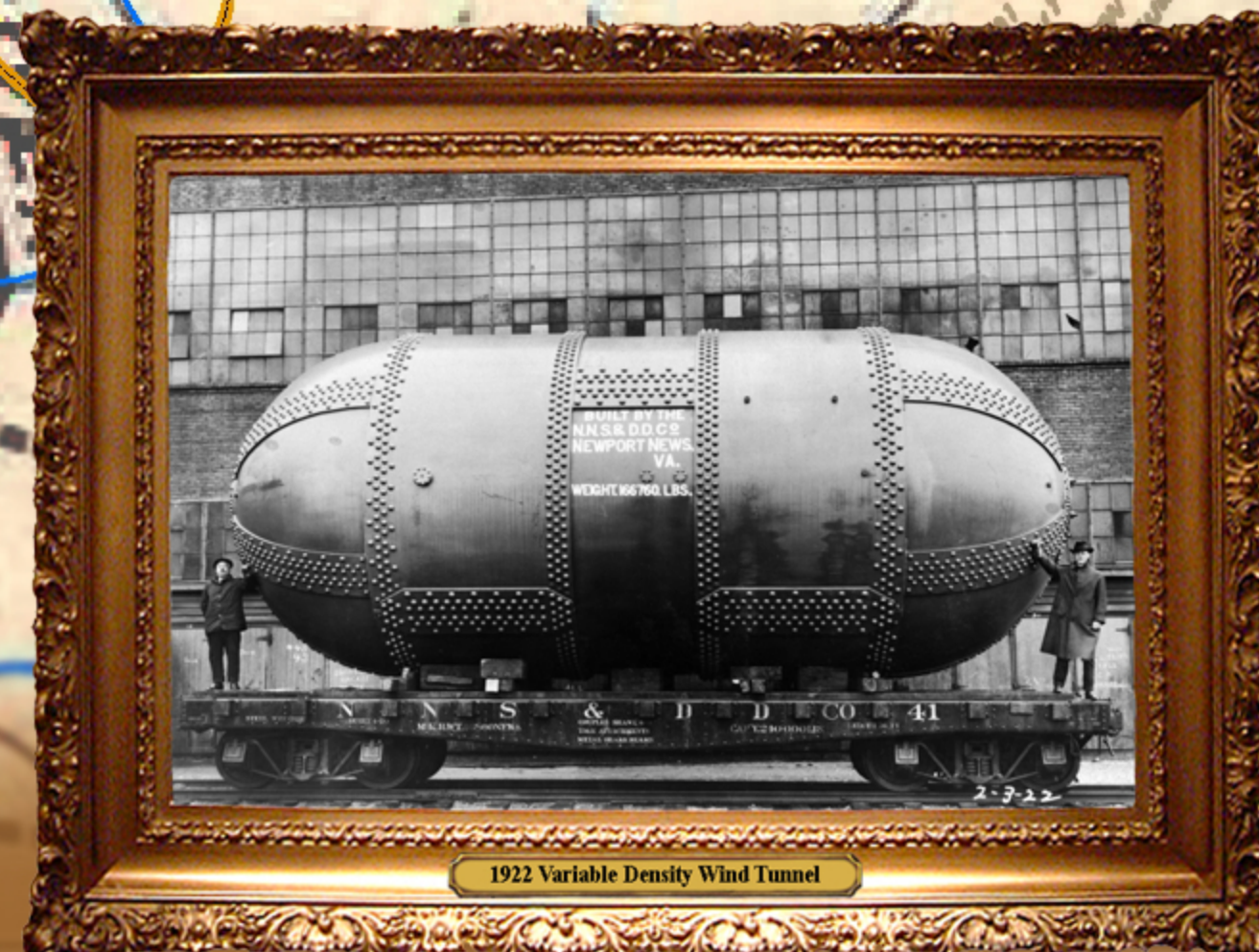
1750 Moorefield



1771 Chesterville



1922 Orville Wright Visits Langley



1922 Variable Density Wind Tunnel



1942 Lockheed YP-38 Lightning



1969 Neil Armstrong with Lunar Lander



1965 Reduced Gravity Simulator

NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

The area now occupied by NASA Langley, a short distance from Jamestown, was settled by European colonists by the 1630's. The Powhatan Indians relinquished their remaining claims in 1646 and by the 1670's plantations dotted the landscape. In the 1800's the property was primarily divided by Chesterville, Cloverdale, and Moorefield.

From 1916 to 1950, the government purchased parcels of the land which became a proving ground for aircraft. Studies conducted at the facility contributed to the application of new technologies in military and civil aircraft. Furthermore, many leaders in the aerodynamics field participated in research at the Center, and seven of the original astronauts trained at the site.

Five sites associated with the "Man in Space" theme, resources that were necessary to accomplish the goal of landing a man on the moon and exploring the earth, planets, and solar system, have been designated National Historic Landmarks.

Legend

- HISTORIC MARKERS
- NASA PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- CURRENT SHORELINE

Sources
Civil War period plantation map from Hudgins diary
1906 Hampton Quadrangle
Historic markers from NASA Langley GIS office

Maps georeferenced by Joshua Kennedy, student intern

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